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**MAY CONSIDER GRANTING INTERIM BAIL TO KEJRIWAL DUE TO POLLS: SC**  
The Supreme Court on Friday indicated that it may grant interim bail to AAP leader and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in view of Lok Sabha polls

**APEX COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON MAY 7**  
A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta told Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for ED, that the hearing on Kejriwal's plea against arrest is likely to take time and therefore, the court was considering hearing arguments on interim bail on May 7. Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 in the excise policy-linked money laundering case

**SEC 70 OF PMLA COVERS POLITICAL PARTIES**  
■ "We are just saying we will hear on interim bail and not saying we will grant bail. We may or may not grant interim bail," the bench clarified  
■ The court rejected the argument of Kejriwal's counsel A M Singhvi that Section 70 of PMLA (which deals with companies) would not cover political parties and hence the AAP convenor should not have been arrested

**Sec 19**  
OF PMLA EMPOWERED TO ARREST PERSONS BASED ON THE MATERIAL IN ITS POSSESSION



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi files his nomination papers for the Lok Sabha election in Rae Bareilly on Friday, as mother Sonia and sister Priyanka look on | Jm

## Amethi ticket to little-known Congman

NAMITA RAJPAI @Lucknow

ENDING weeks of speculation, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi filed his nomination papers for the general elections from his family's bastion Rae Bareilly in the presence of his mother and former Rae Bareilly MP Sonia Gandhi, sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday. This newspaper was the first to report on the buzz about Rahul entering the fray from Rae Bareilly (April 30 edition). With Rahul opting for Rae Bareilly, the party gave the Amethi ticket to family faithful

Kishori Lal Sharma, 63. Little is known about him except that he is a low profile operative and an errand boy of the Gandhi family in Rae Bareilly. He, too, filed his papers. Priyanka recalled her family's long association with Sharma, adding, "he has been handling Amethi for a long time. When I had managed election for the first time in 1999, we had done it together. He knows every village and street of Amethi." Rahul said, "I am happy that Kishori Lalji, who has been serving in the area for the

last 40 years, will represent Amethi this time." Apparently, Rahul opted out of Amethi because he did not want the polls to be framed as a rematch between him and the BJP's feisty Smriti Irani, who had defeated him in 2019. But by fielding the foot soldier, the party appears to have thrown in the towel. When the SP allotted Amethi and Rae Bareilly to the Congress, the understanding was the Gandhi siblings would enter the fray from there. Sonia had represented Rae Bareilly in the Lok Sabha since 2004 before she vacated it.

**BOTH SEATS ARE FAMILY: RAHUL**  
"My mother has handed over the karmabhoom of our family with great trust giving me an opportunity to serve it. Amethi and Rae Bareilly are not different for me. Both are my family," Rahul said. The seat was earlier held by his grandmother and former prime minister Indira Gandhi thrice (1967, 1971, 1980) and grandfather Feroze Gandhi in 1952 and 1957

## SON'S ELOPEMENT

### Woman tied to pole, beaten up in Haveri village

AMIT S UPADHYE @Hubballi

A 50-year-old woman was tied to a pole, beaten up and dragged on the streets of Aremallapur village in Haveri district by a group of men and women on April 30. Ranebennur police have booked three people in this connection. Hanumavva Medleri, the victim, is being treated at the district hospital in Haveri. She was assaulted after her son eloped with a girl from the family of the accused on April 29. A villager said the girl and the boy were in love. The girl belongs to the Maratha community and the boy to the Kuruba community. The girl's family was planning to get her married this year. Hence, the boy eloped with the girl. Both families live on the same street in the village. The boy and the girl have not returned to their village. A senior police officer from Haveri said cases under Sections 350 and 324 have been filed against three people in connection with the attack. The accused fled the village after videos of the incident went viral on social media. Chadrappa Telagi, Basappa and Gutteva have been named as accused in the case. The police will hold a peace meeting in the village soon. "Members of both communities and leaders of the village will be called for the meeting," the officer said. Some villagers said that the two families used to frequently fight over the matter.

## Closure report on Vemula puts T'gana in a spot

Court nod to be sought to reopen case after closure report said he was not a Dalit: DGP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

HOURS after a police closure report in the Rohith Vemula suicide case filed in the Telangana High Court on Friday claimed he was not a Dalit, the Telangana police tried to control the damage by announcing it wanted to reopen the probe. DGP Ravi Gupta said the police will file a petition in the court concerned seeking permission for further investigation. Earlier in the day, the Gachibowli police filed a closure report before the high court citing lack of evidence in the 2016 suicide of the University of Hyderabad PhD scholar. It went on to state that he did not belong to a Scheduled Caste community. The High Court then disposed of petitions related to the case. More than eight years after Rohith's suicide, which sparked widespread protests across the nation, the police, in their closure report stated that the reasons for suicide are personal and no one abetted it.

"The deceased himself was aware that he does not belong to Scheduled Caste (SC) ... This could be one of the constant fears as the exposure of the same would put him to loss of his academic degrees that he earned over the years and be compelled to face prosecution," the report said.



Vemula's mother questions probe

"As some doubts have been expressed by the mother and others of the deceased Rohith Vemula... a petition will be filed in the court concerned... to permit further investigation into the case," the DGP said

Several individuals were accused in the case, including the then Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani and the then vice-chancellor P Appa Rao. The closure report was first filed in March before the jurisdictional court, four months after the Congress came to power in the state in December 2023. After Rohith died by suicide, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi too had visited the university hostel, when the students protests were at the peak. In 2023, in a resolution passed at its 85th plenary session, the Congress said it would bring in a legislation called the 'Rohith Vemula Act' to redress discrimination faced by SC, ST, OBC and minority students in educational institutions.

## Fresh FIR against Revanna for 'kidnap'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

IN a new development in the Hassan sex scandal case, a fresh FIR was filed against JDS leader and Holenarsipur MLA HD Revanna on Friday based on a complaint filed on Thursday night at KR Nagar police station in Mysuru district by Raju of Hebbalu village in KR Nagar taluk. In his complaint, Raju alleged that his mother, who had worked as a domestic help at Revanna's house and farm house for six years, returned to their village three years ago and started working there as a

daily wage. On April 26, Sathish Babanna of Hebbalu village visited Raju's house and claimed that Revanna's wife Bhavani Revanna had invited his mother to her house. Subsequently, his mother was taken to Revanna's house on the election day and sent back. On April 29, Babanna reportedly informed Raju that Revanna had instructed him to bring his mother. She was then forcibly taken to Revanna's house on a motorcycle. On May 1, some villagers informed Raju about a video of the alleged sexual abuse of his

mother by Prajwal. Disturbed by this, Raju immediately contacted Babanna and asked him to bring his mother back. However, Babanna told Raju that his mother was involved in an old case and she could not be sent back till she secured bail. With no proper reply from Babanna, Raju filed the complaint against Revanna and Babanna accusing them of kidnapping his mother. In the FIR, the police have named Revanna as accused No 1 and Babanna as accused No 2 under Sections 364(a), 365, and 34.

## SIT issues 2nd lookout notice

Bengaluru: The SIT issued a second lookout notice against MLA HD Revanna, accused No 1 in the sexual harassment case registered at Holenarsipur police station and a kidnap case at KR Nagar station. It has been issued to prevent Revanna from leaving the country. A lookout notice has been issued against his son Prajwal.

MORE REPORTS: F4

## Lightning kills woman, 48 goats near Bengaluru

MOHAMMED YACOOB & RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

A woman died on the spot when lightning struck her at Ganagalu village near Hoskote on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Friday. Bengaluru and its surrounding areas received moderate rain accompanied by thunder and gusty winds in the afternoon. The deceased has been identified as Rathamma, 55, of Ganagalu. She was grazing her goats when lightning struck her around 2pm. In all, 48 goats died in the incident. Tirumalashetty Halli police have registered a case of unnatural death. Rathamma is survived by her husband and two sons. Bengaluru Rural district administration has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 6 lakh to Rathamma's family. Of the amount, Rs 4 lakh will be given on Saturday, according to a police officer. According to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), Nayandahalli recorded 29.50mm rain, RR Nagar 29mm, Maruthi Mandir 26.50mm, Bilekahalli 24mm and Horamavu 17.50 mm. Meanwhile, officials of the India Meteorological Department have forecast light to moderate rain in the city for the next two days. MORE REPORTS: F2

## Scindia's fight to reclaim lost Guna glory

ANURAG SINGH @Bhopal

WHEN Jyotiraditya Scindia lost the royal family bastion Guna in Madhya Pradesh to his protégé-turned-rival KP Yadav in 2019, it was largely attributed to his arrogance. Then, Scindia was an influential Congress leader and Yadav had just switched sides to join the BJP to emerge as a giant killer. Cut to 2024, Scindia is fighting to reclaim his lost glory on a BJP ticket, while the Congress has taken a leaf out of the BJP's book by fielding Rao Yadendra Singh Yadav, a former leader of the saffron party. Guna has been synonymous with Gwalior's erstwhile royal Scindia family and Scindia has won four times - in 2002, 2004, 2009 and 2014 - on Congress ticket. According to party insiders, when Scindia's candidature was announced on March 2, there was considerable unease among party workers as well as the dominant Yadav voters over the denial of ticket to sitting MP K P Yadav. "The Yadavs are clearly siding

with Rao Yadendra Singh Yadav. To complicate matters, Yadav is the son of former BJP MLA Rao Deshrath Singh Yadav, a sworn adversary of the Scindia family. This makes Yadav acceptable even to non-Yadav BJP voters," said a senior BJP worker. While Yadav voters are still opposed to Scindia, the other castes,

including Lodhis, Kirars, Raghuvanshis, Vaishyas, Brahmins, Kshatriyas, and tribals are said to be backing the Union minister. Scindia has his work cut out. The scarcity of drinking water in many parts of the constituency, particularly in tribal-dominated areas, also remains a concern for the Scindia camp. Recently, a video went viral which showed Scindia's wife being confronted by women raising their water woes. Since his humiliating defeat in 2019, Scindia has been frequently crisscrossing the 18.83 lakh voters-strong constituency. He visited Guna many times after joining the BJP in March 2020 and also after becoming Union minister in the Narendra Modi government. According to political watchers, the unique combination of Modi's image and royal family's goodwill work in favour of Scindia. Scindia has also got former BJP chief ministers Uma Bharti and Shivraj Singh Chouhan to campaign for him to ensure the support of Lodhi-Kirar castes to counter the opposition of Yadavs.

SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS



ILLUSTRATION: MANJARA PAREKH



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